

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hilgert on the bracket motion.

SENATOR HILGERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, fellow members, I just wanted to outline why I would like to encourage the body not to accept the bracket motion. Well, the reason I'm supporting 1114 is to avert a disaster. There are petitions that are being circulated. They will be in the constitution and our options at that time will be dictated by court cases and a massive shift. Every single person in my district that presently has a homestead exemption, an increase of sales taxes represents an increase in taxes on those individuals. We're talking about our disabled and our elderly which would realize a tax increase, the burden putting on those individuals. People who rent will realize a tax increase. Working people with families whose large amount of their resources are devoted towards consumable goods will realize a sales tax increase, a net increase. And if they're fortunate enough to buy their first home and they're trying to make the payments, the deductibility will be gone also. We must avert putting a shifting from property taxes and affecting those in our society that are least able to afford it. This bill deals with accountability. Yes, this deal...this bill deals with caps on levies. These do not go into effect until 1999. Every political subdivision in this state will undergo an election between now and 1999. If the case for the small political subdivisions or the large ones or whatever we're going to be talking about, for the next few hours I'm sure, if the case is compelling enough for us to change this legislation right here why don't you think that the case is compelling enough presented to the people of that local political subdivision to raise the levy? It will provide accountability. The people will understand. They will appreciate the good job that the cities or villages or districts or what have you does. That compelling case will fly and the levies will be adjusted by the people. We talk about local control. Everywhere I go we always talk about local control. People talk to me about local control. This is local control. The people are finally deciding what their levy's going to be. This gives them that opportunity. I agree that one size does not fit all, but this creates a base. Not every political subdivision in any category is going to be treated exactly the same. For some there'll be no impact; others there'll be large impact, but it will be up to that local political subdivision to make that case to the people that they work for and the people that they work for will be able to make a decision whether they want these services or not.